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## NEGROES IN BUSINESS.

### WORK OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE AT RICHMOND.

A Remarkable Exhibit of Race Progress—Startling Changes Wrought Since First Cargo of Slaves Landed on the Banks of Historic James River—All Loyal to Leadership of Booker T. Washington.

Two hundred and eighty-three years ago the history of the Negro in America began on the banks of the James River in the State of Virginia. He was then a slave. Today the descendants of those Negroes again assembled upon the banks of this historic river, in the city of Richmond—as bankers, manufacturers, editors, farmers, merchants and mechanics, representing every phase of agricultural, industrial and professional life. The dark-skinned people who appeared here in 1619 were the chained creatures of others, penniless and friendless. The two hundred delegates who assembled today are members of the National Negro Business League, representing the best thought and morals of the 10,000,000 souls that now constitute our population. They are educated, distinguished in bearing, comfortably provided with the comforts of life, and have homes of their own, free from a control not of their personal choice, citizens of the greatest republic on earth, and to whose development they have given their full share. This magnificent gathering is presided over by a man who is easily the foremost Negro in the world, whose leadership has been built up by solidity of character which has year after year impressed itself upon the country and upon the race, from the highest to the lowest, and whose intrinsic worth has been conceded by the thinkers, the doers, and the financiers of the continent. This man, around whom revolves the most useful and practical of all race organizations is Booker T. Washington—himself the perfect embodiment and therefore the most forceful and convincing advocate of the philosophy he teaches. So thoroughly known has Dr. Washington become that to mention his name is to place the public in touch with his work, and to inculcate the fire of the "Tuskegee spirit." It was his personality that made the Negro business League possible; it is his superb management that holds it together and makes it a power for good; it is the warm esteem in which he is held that has won to a standard the real leaders of the race. The meetings in Richmond August 25, 26 and 27 were the most successful, the most enthusiastic of the series because the plan of organization was cumulative in idea, and built from the ground up—because it followed the same line of scientific growth that characterized the growth of Dr. Washington him-

## MEN OF THE HOUR.



HON. J. C. NAPIER.

Tennessee's Foremost Afro-American Lawyer and Citizen—A Leading Factor in the National Business League and by Whose Invitation the Next Convention Goes to Nashville.

self—prove the value of a cause and then give it a demonstration so practical that those who scoff at first remain to pray for its prosperity. As Dr. Washington grew upon the nation so has the League taken root and is growing. The Richmond gathering led by Dr. Washington, and permeated with a sincere admiration for the work to which his life is consecrated, sent out an influence that will tell upon the future of the race in a moral way, to which the men who came to see what the organization meant, returned full of zeal, encouraged by the interchange of experiences bringing out the importance of small beginnings. They go to their homes to work with even greater earnestness, to so improve their places of business that they may make a report at the next meeting that will compare favorably with the best. The plain talks of the President has had a wonderful effect upon the younger delegates and visitors, as his close ob-

servation so enabled him to reach their inner life as to make each feel that his own case is under consideration. As each owes a filial duty to a parent, he owes better results to the race's acknowledged champion, Booker T. Washington. The man who merely talks or who lives by giving advice to others how to get along without getting along himself had no place in this meeting of working-men, and that more than all other features, stamped this convention as far above the average gathering devoted to the solution of the race problem. To sum up, the third annual meeting of the National Negro Business League may be said to have accomplished the following definite results:

First—It has taught the American people, white and black, that the Negro can make and is actually making a place for himself in the world of business.

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## SOME AFTERTHOUGHTS

### THE COLORED AMERICAN'S PHILOSOPHER AT WORK.

The Negro's Susceptibility to Religious Influences—Is it Unlawful to 'Harangue the Multitude' in Washington? Prosperous Young Men Who are Setting a Pace for Colleagues—Our Building Boom.

Whether the Negro is more susceptible than other races or not to the absorption of a new religious idea, but the tent of Rev. L. E. Scheafe, representing the Seventh Day Adventists, has been crowded nightly by our people. The interest in his preaching and singing extending to all denominations. Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians have helped to swell Dr. Scheafe's audiences, and have gone out heralding his wonderful command of Biblical knowledge and the convincing power of his argument. He has been feasted at the best tables and his coffers have been filled with coin that has not always been freely given for evangelical purposes. In fact, this Seventh Day apostle is making such a profound impression upon the members of certain churches that according to report, the pastors of the same have asked their "regulars" to desist from Dr. Scheafe's meetings, contending that his heterodoxy will prove demoralizing to the peace and mind that orthodox Christians enjoy under normal conditions. Nevertheless the tent of the new disciple at 13th and T streets, northwest, continues to draw the crowds.

No, dear reader, no information has come this way as to where the District colored delegation dined on the day they spent at Oyster Bay.

Judge Bundy has sat down hard upon the oratorical ambitions of the Hon. Simon Booker, who claims the proud distinction of being Maryland's original Negro Democrat. Simon has had a habit of coming to Washington and embibing freely from the flowing bowl to the point of being moved to speech. On one occasion he made so bold as to address his fellow-citizens in tones of thunder from the sacred steps of the police court and got himself promptly into contempt, both of the court and his audience. It is all over now. Simon has agreed that for and in consideration of his liberty, he will from now on, cease to harangue the multitude upon the highways of this "Forbidden City." Bryan's chances for carrying the District of Columbia have thus far gone glimmering.

The building fever which has made this season the greatest Washington has ever known has caught on with the colored people, too. With a new John Wesley Church in process of

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